

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to more clearly define the invention as disclosed in the written description. In particular, claims 1 and 2 have been amended for clarity.

The storage medium as claimed in claim 1 includes a semiconductor memory which has digital audio and/or video data stored therein. As described in the specification on page 2, lines 32-33, the storage medium may be manufactured with the digital audio and/or video data pre-stored in the semiconductor memory. Alternatively, as described in the specification on page 6, lines 9-14, the storage medium may be provided with a unidirectional digital input whereby the digital audio and/or video data may be loaded into the semiconductor memory. However, regardless of how the digital audio and/or video data is put into the semiconductor memory, the storage medium only provide one way of accessing information represented by the stored audio and/or video data, and that is via the output means connected to the conversion unit such that only the analog audio and/or video signals from the conversion unit are available from the storage medium to a device external from the storage medium.

Applicants believe that the above changes and explanation answer the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. 112, paragraphs 1 and 2, rejections of claim 1, and respectfully request withdrawal thereof.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,734,726 to Truchsess. The Examiner has further rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 1093(a) as being unpatentable over Truchsess in view of U.S. Patent 4,905,289 to Micic et al. In addition, the Examiner has rejected claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Truchsess in view of U.S. Patent 6,122,230 to Scibora.

The Truchsess patent discloses a device and method for controlling digitally-stored sounds to provide smooth acceleration and deceleration effects, in which a microcontroller 22 selectively causes digital sounds stored in memory 20 to be applied to a digital-to-analog converter (DAC) 24, for application to an amplifier 26 and then a speaker 20. Truchsess then discloses that the memory 20 and DAC 24 may be integrated together in a voice IC 30 (Fig. 5), or alternatively, the microcontroller 22, the memory 20 and the DAC 24 may be integrated together in a voice IC 32.

As per MPEP § 2131, "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051,1053 (Fed.Cir.1987). Further, "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed.Cir.1989).

Applicants submit that Truchsess does not disclose or suggest that "the output means of the storage medium, on which the analog audio and/or video output signals are made available to the reproducing apparatus, are only connected to the conversion unit". In particular, as is well-known to those skilled in the art, when multiple circuits are integrated into a single chip, it is common practice to provide contacts on the single chip for the inputs and outputs of each of the circuits thereby allowing a user to customly interconnect the circuits, or to at least access any of the signals traveling between the multiple circuits. Applicants submit that Truchsess neither discloses nor suggests that such access is not available in the integrated Voice IC 30 or 32 as shown in Figs. 5 and 6 therein.

The Micic et al. patent discloses an apparatus for the digital storage of audio signals employing read only memories, in which, as noted by the Examiner, the semiconductor memory is a read-only memory.

However, Appellants submit that Micic et al. does not supply that which is missing from Truchsess, i.e., "the output means of the storage medium, on which the analog audio and/or video output signals are made available to the reproducing apparatus, are only connected to the conversion unit".

Scibora patent discloses a universal compressed audio player in which "The universal compressed audio player further

comprises a programmable digital signal processor (DSP) 114. DSPs are readily available from a large number of sources, one example being the Butterfly DSP from SHARP Microelectronics..."

The Examiner appears to believe that this DSP discloses the claim 7 limitation "the conversion unit is configurable subject to authorization and/or irreversibly."

Appellants believe that the Examiner is incorrectly interpreting claim 7. In particular, in the specification on page 4, lines 17-26, it is specifically stated:

"Moreover, the conversion unit of the device can be configured in predetermined types, configuration being effected only subject to authorization control and/or in irreversible form. This means that configuration of the conversion unit requires the possession of a given access key (authorization control) and/or that once configuration has taken place it cannot be cancelled. As a result of such a configurability of the conversion unit it possible that a customer can purchase the device in technically different and differently priced configurations, the relevant configuration being determined by an authorized seller upon the purchase. Configuration can be effected, for example, in that certain parts of the circuits in the conversion unit are disabled so as to tailor it to the customer's ideas about features and quality."

Appellants submit that Scibora neither discloses or suggests configuring the DSP in such a manner.

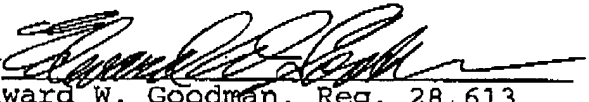
Further, Appellants submit that Scibora does not supply that which is missing from Truchsess, i.e., "the output means of the storage medium, on which the analog audio and/or video output

signals are made available to the reproducing apparatus, are only connected to the conversion unit".

In view of the above, Applicants believe that the subject invention, as claimed, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the prior art, either individually or collectively, and as such, is patentable thereover.

Applicants believes that this application, containing claims 1, 2 and 4-7, is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

by   
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